



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY

DIPLOMATIC SECURITY

2008 YEAR IN REVIEW

CONFRONTING THE THREAT

OUR MISSION

The Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DS), the law enforcement and security arm of the U.S. Department of State, provides a secure environment for the conduct of American diplomacy. To advance American interests and foreign policy, DS protects people, property, and information at more than 285 State Department missions worldwide. DS is the most widely represented U.S. security and law enforcement organization in the world, and a leader in international investigations, threat analysis, cyber security, counterterrorism, and security technology.

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A CHALLENGING YEAR

Fraught with danger, threats, and scattered violence, 2008 was another year of special challenge for the conduct of United States diplomacy abroad. The murder on January 1 of U.S. diplomat John Granville and his driver in Khartoum, Sudan, was followed by other assaults throughout the year at a multitude of locations overseas. The Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DS) rose to the challenge in every situation, and maintained a secure working environment for U.S. diplomatic personnel, facilities, and information.

Diplomatic Security special agents managed to cope with a spectrum of potential hazards through effective investigations and protective countermeasures. Together with our outstanding team of engineers, technical specialists, diplomatic couriers, civil servants, and contractors, they ensured the success of the security and law enforcement agenda.

In a climate of danger and upheaval, the need for precaution and prevention is greater than ever. The fully renovated DS Command Center enhanced our capability to recognize potential threats early on, and to take necessary steps to deter or respond to them quickly. Investigations of passport and



visa fraud resulted in a record-breaking number of arrests for the second consecutive year. DS also increased the number of U.S. foreign affairs employees it trains; and it continued to work with partner nations to help ensure the effectiveness of international cooperation against terrorism and violence.

DS special agents performed flawlessly in providing security for diplomatic personnel at major special events, including the Summer Olympics in China, both U.S. political party conventions, and the convening of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. Our special agents also protected the

U.S. Secretary of State throughout her missions to 53 countries, including such high-threat locations as Iraq, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.

The men and women of Diplomatic Security perform a critical service for the nation. Many confront danger and endure hardship on a daily basis as they perform difficult duties in some of the most perilous places on earth. Our nation, and the cause of international diplomacy as a whole, are served well by their dedication and courage.

Eric J. Boswell
Assistant Secretary of State
Director, Office of Foreign Missions
Bureau of Diplomatic Security



Protesters in Belgrade, Serbia, express outrage during a protest rally against Kosovo's declaration of independence from Serbia with backing by the West. More than 150,000 Serbs gathered at the rally. A mob later stormed the U.S. diplomatic compound, set fire to U.S. Government vehicles, broke Embassy windows, and set part of the Embassy on fire.



COUNTERING THREATS

To determine and implement the most effective measures for safeguarding U.S. diplomacy, DS has well-developed capabilities for evaluating threats, analyzing trends, gathering reports of suspicious activities worldwide, and then disseminating this information to DS decision makers, personnel in the field, and other U.S. Department of State officials in a timely fashion — often as events are unfolding.

DS took significant steps in 2008 to enhance its threat reporting, security assessments, and analytical products.

In May, Diplomatic Security consolidated all of its threat reporting and investigative and analytical activities within a new Directorate of Threat Investigations and Analysis. This consolidation brought the Office of Intelligence and Threat Analysis, the Office of Protective Intelligence Investigations, the Overseas Security Advisory Council, Rewards for Justice program, and the Diplomatic Security Command Center together under one structure.

Under this new directorate, DS improved the managerial oversight and direction of its threat investigations and analysis activities while creating a more efficient central office for threat intelligence and management tasks. The consolidation has enhanced DS crisis-management capabilities that will serve the Department of State well in the coming years, as the overseas threat environment continues to evolve.



DS COMMAND CENTER

The Diplomatic Security Command Center (DSCC) at DS headquarters tracks and reports threats and security incidents directed against U.S. interests overseas, around the clock. The Command Center's threat and incident reporting helps DS policymakers maintain situational awareness and make important decisions during terrorist attacks, natural disasters, and other security emergencies involving U.S. interests abroad.

In 2008, DS expanded its Security Management System enterprise (SMS_e), a computer-based network that permits the DS Command Center to monitor alarm systems, security cameras, and sensors remotely at 240 Department facilities. The SMS_e also permits the Command Center to control access to, and record activities and conditions at these posts.

Using cutting-edge modeling software, the SMS_e also displays geospatial imagery, three-dimensional photorealistic models of overseas U.S. diplomatic facilities, interior layout information, and live enhanced



closed circuit television management and utilization. Such imagery can provide DS decision makers with both “virtual” and real-time views of these posts during crises.

DS has completed modeling for 73 Department of State posts in this system and plans to model all posts in the coming years. Additionally, security personnel at 30 U.S. diplomatic missions abroad use this technology to monitor posts in their region of responsibility.

In the closing months of 2008, the Command Center improved its capabilities with a large-scale renovation of its technology and facilities. Improvements included:

- ▶ An enhanced video wall with 34 high-resolution screens, allowing the entire DSCC staff to view incoming images simultaneously.
- ▶ An advanced audio bridge conference-call capability, enabling teleconferencing among as many as 43 participants simultaneously.



RECOGNIZING THE THREAT

Over the years, DS has trained thousands of participants at International Law Enforcement Academies (ILEA) worldwide in methods to confront terrorism and transnational crime. In 2008, DS trained some 400 foreign law enforcement officers on terrorist groups, targets, tactics, and pre-attack terrorist planning. Through these programs, DS analysts assist foreign law enforcement partners in better recognizing and assessing terrorist threats.

REWARDS FOR JUSTICE

DS administers the Rewards for Justice program (RFJ), an inter-agency effort to identify and offer rewards for information that leads to the arrest or conviction of anyone who plans, commits, or attempts international terrorist acts against U.S. persons or property; that prevents such acts from occurring in the first place; that leads to the location of a key terrorist leader; or that disrupts terrorism financing.

RFJ identifies these terrorist suspects and lists its reward offers to the public through television, radio, and print media advertising campaigns, and through its web site at www.rewardsforjustice.net.

In 2008, the program paid out \$5 million in award money to an individual who helped bring a terrorist suspect to justice. Since its inception in 1984, RFJ has paid more than \$82 million to more than 50 individuals who have provided credible information on terrorism-related events and organizations.

OVERSEAS SECURITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) is the Bureau of Diplomatic Security's innovative public-private partnership between the Department of State and some 5,800 organizations representing U.S.-based businesses, non-governmental organizations, faith-based groups, and academic institutions with operations overseas.

OSAC's web-based information center at www.osac.gov supports its network of more than 115 overseas country councils that provide a platform for the U.S. private sector abroad to discuss threats ranging from terrorist attacks to theft of intellectual property.

The year 2008 was busy and productive for OSAC, with increased information sharing among members of its industry-specific sectors. For example, in the aftermath of the September 20 terrorist attack against the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad, Pakistan, and the November 26 hotel attacks in Mumbai, India, DS Regional Security Officers convened several meetings with various country councils in the region to discuss the details of the attacks and share best practices information. OSAC provided U.S. embassies worldwide with historical background on soft target attacks and an analysis of countermeasures, to assist the private sector in addressing potential vulnerabilities.

In response to a request from its constituent organizations, OSAC also unveiled its newest domestic council, the Pan-Asian Regional Council. Based in California, it focuses on issues of safety and the concerns of security managers with common interests in East Asia.

OSAC also gave extensive support to the U.S. private sector at the 2008 Olympic Summer Games in Beijing. OSAC provided its members with cultural, legal, and practical advice, and produced and disseminated a daily security report. In the aftermath of the August 9 attack on two U.S. tourists that left one American dead and another wounded, OSAC played a key role in rapidly alerting U.S. private sector groups that this was an isolated incident and not a targeted attack.



Damage to a U.S. Embassy storage building in Sana'a, Yemen, is inspected after militants linked to al-Qaida launched a brazen attack against the U.S. facility, firing automatic weapons, and setting off grenades and a car bomb. The furious fusillade failed to breach the Embassy perimeter walls but killed 16 people, including an American citizen.



INVESTIGATIONS

Every year, DS conducts hundreds of investigations relating to the safety and security of Department of State personnel, facilities, and information; other U.S. Government personnel overseas; U.S. travel documents; international organizations; and resident foreign officials, foreign diplomatic missions, and visiting foreign dignitaries in the United States.

In 2008, DS opened investigations on more than 450 threats, suspicious activities, and/or actual incidents directed at Department personnel or assets worldwide.

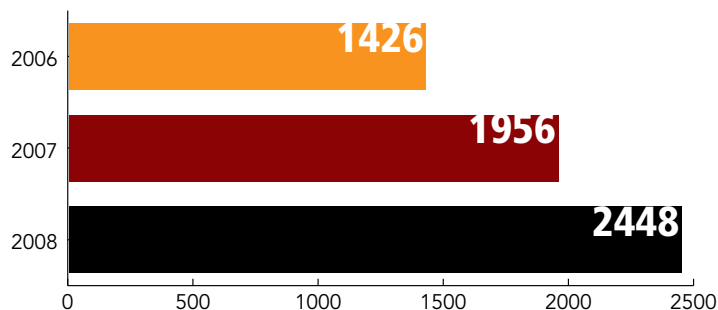
DS also participated in eight overseas investigations into terrorist attacks against U.S. interests, including the attempted assassination in Kabul of Afghanistan's President; the attack on the U.S. Consulate's Principal Officer in Peshawar, Pakistan; the terrorist assault on the U.S. Embassy in Sana'a, Yemen; the bombing of the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad, Pakistan; and the November terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India.

VISA AND PASSPORT FRAUD

Through its investigations of visa and passport fraud and related crimes, DS advances the U.S. Government's strategic goal of halting transnational terrorism and organized crime.

Domestically, DS special agents conducted hundreds of such investigations. DS-assisted arrests rose for the fourth consecutive year, achieving a 23 percent increase over 2007.

VISA AND PASSPORT FRAUD ARRESTS: 2006 -2008



VIOLENT CRIMES

As a result of an increased number of violent crimes and assaults against individuals working overseas under the authority of U.S. Chiefs of Mission, DS launched a new Violent Crimes Unit. This new unit has specially trained “fly-away” teams capable of traveling to overseas posts on short notice to assist in gathering forensic evidence from violent crimes involving Chief-of-Mission personnel, dependents, contractors, and/or its facilities and housing. This new expertise ensures that DS investigators are better able to investigate and resolve such crimes.

In 2008, the Violent Crimes Unit opened 64 investigations into alleged violations involving child abuse (20 cases), domestic violence (19), sexual assault (12), deaths (7), use-of-force (5), and kidnapping (1).

OVERSEAS INVESTIGATIONS

Internationally, DS augmented its investigative program in 2008 by assigning an additional 17 new Assistant Regional Security Officer-Investigators to U.S. diplomatic posts throughout the world.

These new positions brought to 50 the number of agent-investigators at U.S. embassies and consulates abroad working full time to identify, disrupt, and prosecute individuals engaged in visa, passport, and related fraud.

These investigators helped their host-nation law enforcement counterparts make 586 arrests overseas; contributed to the refusal or revocation of 2,369 suspicious or fraudulent visas; and helped train 5,190 U.S. diplomatic mission personnel, airline officials, and local law enforcement officers on document fraud indicators.

NOTABLE INVESTIGATIONS

DS conducted some very successful and significant investigations in 2008:

Operation Morning Glory, an 18-month investigation into a marriage and visa fraud ring by DS and the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, concluded with 90 individuals successfully prosecuted on various charges related to alien smuggling and marriage fraud. Based in Salt Lake City, Utah, the scheme involved hundreds of individuals — including a DHS employee — and multiple ringleaders. DS identified more than \$1 million in assets for forfeiture proceedings.

DS concluded Operation Grand Scheme, a two-year investigation into a major human smuggling and human trafficking ring in Colombia that resulted in the arrest of 31 suspects charged with human trafficking, conspiracy, and presenting false public documents during the visa application process. The leader of the smuggling organization was sentenced to 24 years in a Colombian prison for human smuggling and money laundering.

DS also wrapped up a highly successful three-year investigation into passport fraud called “Operation Deathmatch” in which Diplomatic Security and FBI agents cross-matched computerized government death records with Department of State passport records. This process identified individuals who fraudulently applied for, and obtained United States passports using birth certificates of deceased Americans. This investigation resulted in 112 individuals being charged with federal passport fraud and related offenses around the country; and led to the seizure of weapons, \$650,000 in cash, and more than 80 fraudulently obtained United States passports.

The Diplomatic Security Service-Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Border Security Initiative is an ongoing joint border security program at the San Ysidro Port of Entry south of San Diego, along the California – Mexico border. Working with CBP agents at the port of entry and with federal prosecutors, DS special agents arrested more than 100 individuals on charges of visa and passport fraud, and related document fraud; seized more than 600 photo-subbed or fraudulent U.S. passports for analysis and evidence in prosecuting the suspects; and identified major organized criminal activity, including human and drug trafficking.

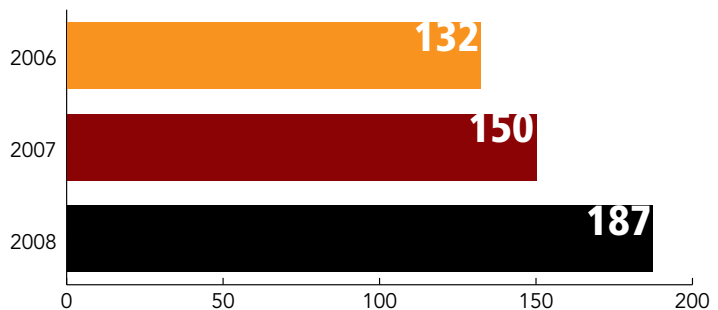
CYBER CRIME

The Bureau recorded a significant increase in the number of cyber crime cases it investigated. DS opened 187 forensic-support cases in 2008, compared to 150 new forensics cases in 2007.

The 25 percent increase was due, in part, to DS investigations into more than 100 online scams in which fraudsters sent e-mail messages purportedly from the U.S. Department of State congratulating the e-mail recipients on having won visas in the Diversity Visa Lottery. These e-mails then directed the “winners” to claim their visas by wiring substantial “processing fees” to a fictitious U.S. Government official.

Throughout the year, DS provided investigative support for more traditional visa fraud investigations in which there were indications that fraud was linked to the Internet. DS also investigated several dozen e-mail threats directed against State Department facilities and personnel.

CYBER CRIMES INVESTIGATIONS: 2006 -2008





FUGITIVE RETURNS

In 2008, DS investigators assisted many foreign and U.S. law enforcement agencies in locating and returning fugitives who fled to foreign nations. This included cooperation with the U.S. Marshals Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Drug Enforcement Administration, Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, all branches of the U.S. military, and several state and local law enforcement units as well.

DS participated in the investigation and return of 119 fugitives – 109 international and 10 domestic returns. Among the returned fugitives, 21 were wanted on narcotics charges, 18 for different types of fraud, 15 for sexual assault of a minor, and 10 for homicide. The remaining fugitives were wanted on charges ranging from child pornography and parental abduction to money laundering, burglary, and violent sexual assault.

NOTABLE FUGITIVE RETURNS

DS assisted with significant fugitive returns in 2008, including:

The Regional Security Office at the U.S. Consulate in Ciudad Juarez learned that a convicted double murderer who was about to be paroled from a Mexican prison might be a fugitive from the United States. Within hours, DS special agents confirmed to Mexican prison authorities that the parolee was wanted in the United States for a murder committed in Texas. With the parolee's family falsely declaring that he was a Mexican citizen and demanding his immediate release, prison authorities gave DS an additional hour to prove his U.S. citizenship. Within that time, DS located and provided Mexican authorities with a copy of the parolee's U.S. birth certificate and a statement of the U.S. charges against him. The Assistant Regional Security Officer in Ciudad Juarez and Mexican immigration officials turned the parolee over to U.S. Marshals at the U.S. - Mexico border.

After a months-long intergovernmental and interagency investigation, DS special agents, in coordination with agents from the U.S. Marshals Service New York/New Jersey Fugitive Task Force, and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, arrested a fugitive wanted by authorities in Greece for the 1990 kidnapping and murder of a ten-year-old child.

DS assisted in the apprehension in Taiwan of a former dentist who had been featured on the TV show "America's Most Wanted." The fugitive U.S. citizen had been charged in 2006 by authorities in California for allegedly drugging patients. Thanks to the efforts of the DS Regional Security Officer in Taipei, Taiwan, authorities located and detained the fugitive for return to the United States to face prosecution.



The U.S. Embassy in Belgrade, Serbia, burns after masked attackers broke into the building and set fire to an office, at the end of a massive protest against western-backed Kosovo independence. DS security personnel and United States Marine Corps Embassy Security Guards successfully protected U.S. diplomats and thwarted efforts to inflict more severe damage on the compound.



MEETING THE CHALLENGE

In the current threat environment in which U.S. diplomacy is conducted, safeguarding U.S. personnel, information, and property, both domestically and abroad, is a difficult challenge.

However, Diplomatic Security has developed a layered and very robust approach to protecting U.S. diplomats, facilities, and classified information, as well as those foreign missions and dignitaries in the United States with whom the U.S. Government conducts international diplomacy. To implement these security countermeasures and programs, Diplomatic Security relies on its highly trained and dedicated professionals, many of whom risk their lives every day to ensure that the U.S. Government may engage safely in diplomacy throughout the world.



DS special agents provide a layer of protection around the International Olympic torch, during the San Francisco leg of an around-the-world journey to the torch-lighting ceremony in China.



DIGNITARY PROTECTION

Diplomatic Security provides protection to the U.S. Secretary of State, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, U.S. Government personnel and dignitaries while at U.S. diplomatic missions abroad, and visiting foreign dignitaries in the United States.

DS special agents provided around-the-clock protection for U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice throughout 2008. DS personnel traveled to 53 countries while protecting Secretary Rice. This travel included the first visit by a U.S. Secretary of State to Libya in over 50 years, as well as multiple visits to high-threat locations like Iraq, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Algiers, Pakistan, and the Palestinian Territories.

During the Olympic Torch Run in San Francisco in April, DS provided protection for China's Ambassador to the United States and an official delegation of 105 Chinese Olympic organizers, and deployed 60 special agents for the Olympic Torch Run Ceremony.

Also in August, DS provided security for more than 225 foreign officials and 150 foreign ambassadors who attended the Democratic National Convention in Denver. DS special agents also protected 150 foreign ambassadors at the Republican National Convention in Minneapolis/St Paul, in September.

In September, DS fielded 37 protective details for foreign officials attending the United Nations General Assembly in New York, followed by 11 protective details for foreign dignitaries at the United Nations-sponsored Culture of Peace conference in New York in November, and the G-20 Economic Summit on the Financial Markets and World Economy in Washington, DC, the following week.

Because of Diplomatic Security's unrivaled reputation in the dignitary protection field, it receives many requests from foreign governments to protect their visiting dignitaries in the United States. In 2008, DS provided protection for 176 visiting delegations, based on a threat analysis for each delegation.

PROTECTION IN HIGH-THREAT ENVIRONMENTS

Through its Mobile Security Deployments (MSD), DS fields teams of special agents who are specially equipped, trained, and prepared to protect personnel and facilities in dangerous environments anywhere in the world.

These teams successfully completed several high-threat missions in 2008:

- ▶ Working closely with the U.S. Department of Defense and the Regional Security Offices at the U.S. Embassies in Nairobi and Djibouti, MSD personnel planned and provided tactical protective security support for Assistant Secretary of State Jendayi Frazier's visit to Hargeisa, Somaliland, in February 2008.
- ▶ After the rebel assault on government forces in Chad ended in February, MSD special agents were the first U.S. personnel to re-enter and secure the U.S. Embassy compound and residential housing areas in N'Djamena. MSD worked with U.S. Department of Defense and French military explosive ordnance experts to locate and disarm several rockets that had fallen around the compound during the fighting.
- ▶ In the aftermath of the February assault on the U.S. Embassy in Belgrade, Serbia, an MSD security support team arrived to re-establish security of the Embassy compound and its facilities, create an Embassy defensive security plan, and provide oversight of the Marine Security detachment assigned to the Embassy.

MSD teams conducted similar post-incident security enhancements following crises at U.S. diplomatic posts in Georgia, Pakistan, and Yemen.





A DS Mobile Security Deployments agent stands guard outside Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia's office as he meets with U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

PROTECTION ABROAD

Diplomatic Security manages a broad array of security programs to protect the people, facilities, and information that the United States depends on for the conduct of foreign policy abroad. In the wake of heightened threat levels in 2008, DS provided support and funding for more than 32,000 personnel supporting U.S. embassy security programs worldwide. In Pakistan, for example, DS secured funding for an additional 192 security personnel as the threat environment in the country steadily increased.

In what turned out to be a very violent year for U.S. diplomacy, DS managed the U.S. crisis response and provided guidance to U.S. diplomatic posts worldwide during several critical security incidents, including:

- A fatal terrorist attack upon two Embassy employees in Khartoum, Sudan, in January. Afterwards, DS secured additional armored vehicles and 200 new personnel to expand the local guard, residential security and surveillance-detection programs, and anti-terrorism training.
- The February 2 assault by rebels in N'Djamena, where the U.S. Embassy in Chad faced intense and unprecedented levels of violence. The Embassy ultimately ceased operations for a short period and personnel were evacuated. Violence erupted again in June.
- A February 21 assault on the U.S. Embassy in Belgrade, Serbia, by thousands of nationals angered by U.S. recognition of independence in neighboring Kosovo. Members of the mob stormed into the diplomatic compound, set fire to U.S. Government vehicles, broke Embassy windows, damaged doors, and set part of the Embassy afire.
- The five-day Russian-Georgian military conflict in August, during which DS coordinated the land evacuation of U.S. personnel from the U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi to a neighboring safe-haven post; dispatched security teams to assist the Embassy's regional security office in handling the U.S. Government's large humanitarian assistance effort to Georgia; and provided protective details to visiting U.S. officials, including Congressional members and staff, the U.S. Secretary of State, and the Vice President of the United States.
- A September 17 assault on the U.S. Embassy in Sana'a, Yemen, in which terrorists dressed as Yemeni police officers attacked the post with gunfire, a vehicle bomb, and other explosives, killing 10 people. Eight of the attackers were killed in the assault.
- The September 20 truck bombing of the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad, Pakistan, that destroyed the front of the hotel and resulted in the deaths of 62 people, including the Czech Ambassador and three U.S. Government employees.

Throughout the year, Diplomatic Security personnel also succeeded in protecting U.S. personnel, facilities, and classified information during security incidents in Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Iraq, and Kenya.

Marriott





DS special agents carry a "wounded" colleague to a helicopter landing zone during a high-threat field training exercise at the U.S. Marine Corps base in Quantico, Virginia. The exercises help prepare special agents for assignments in some of the world's most dangerous places, including Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Sudan, Haiti, and Liberia.

CUTTING-EDGE TRAINING

At a training venue in West Virginia, Diplomatic Security prepares its personnel and other U.S. Government foreign affairs workers for duty in high-threat areas of the world. Through a series of innovative tactical training courses, DS exposes these individuals to real-world scenarios employing gunfire and explosions, in a safe and controlled environment.

A total of 3,630 U.S. Government personnel — including 268 new DS special agents — completed DS training courses in 2008, marking an 8.7 percent increase over 2007 in the number of U.S. foreign affairs employees trained by Diplomatic Security.

To assist with growing demand, DS expanded its training operation with the opening of a new, interim training facility that includes a classroom/administrative building, a tactical maze, a gymnasium, and a firing range, all of which are protected by DS-designed intrusion detection, access control, and closed-circuit television security systems.

DS continued to provide its highly successful Foreign Affairs Counter Threat course to Foreign Service personnel and eligible family members assigned to work and live in areas of the world with high-threat environments. In 2008, a total of 1,439 U.S. Government personnel and family members took the course, helping them develop personal security skills in preparation for the rigors of serving in highly dangerous assignments. The course is now mandatory for personnel serving in Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen.

DS training continues to save lives. During 2008:

- ▶ A young consular officer who escaped injury during the September 20 truck bomb attack against the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad, Pakistan, credited the DS Foreign Affairs Counter Threat course with saving her life. Based on that training, the consular officer detected something was wrong as she drove up to the hotel, and immediately backed up and drove away. Shortly after her departure, the truck exploded, destroying the front of the hotel and killing 62 people.
- ▶ On August 26, the Principal Officer of the U.S. Consulate in Peshawar, Pakistan, along with her driver and a security guard, survived an assassination attempt thanks to the evasive maneuvers executed by the driver, who was trained by the DS Armored Vehicle Driver Training program. As assailants blocked the path of the Consulate's armored vehicle and opened fire with automatic weapons, the driver executed a textbook maneuver learned through DS training and escaped the attack.

The DS Training Center also began a new program called "Knowledge from the Field." The program focuses on recreating major overseas terrorist attacks and security incidents utilizing video, electronic maps, animation, and narration. These recreations are then sent to U.S. embassies and consulates to assist management teams with security training for all employees under Chief-of-Mission authority.

TRAINING U.S. PARTNERS

Training its civilian counterparts overseas to detect, investigate, and disrupt terrorist activity is another way that DS works to enhance the security environment for U.S. diplomatic activity abroad and to build closer relationships between the United States and partner nations.

The year 2008 marked the 25th anniversary of the Antiterrorism Training Assistance (ATA) program, one of Diplomatic Security's most successful training initiatives that provides high-quality security and counterterrorism training to civilian law enforcement and security agencies of partner nations. In 2008, DS delivered 302 classes to 6,103 participants from 68 countries covering topics such as airport security, bomb detection, countering terrorist finance, cyber terrorism, dignitary protection, fraudulent document recognition, and hostage negotiation and rescue.

Throughout its quarter-century of existence, the ATA program has provided more than 67,000 students from 154 countries with training tailored to the needs of each partner nation and to local conditions. As required by law, all participants in this program are first vetted to ensure they have not been involved in human rights violations.

DS also provides foreign law enforcement agencies with training through other inter-agency programs, such as the U.S. Department of Justice International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program. In 2008, Indonesian police who had received DS training in human-trafficking investigations through this program shut down two human-trafficking operations, arrested 11 suspects, and rescued 272 women and nine girls who had been smuggled into Indonesia and forced into prostitution.

ATA PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The ATA program training continued to prove its value throughout 2008:

An April assassination attempt on Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai (pictured at right) by Taliban fighters in Kabul was thwarted by the quick action of his ATA-trained Presidential Protective Services personnel. Three assassins were killed and three were arrested. ATA continues to train, equip, and mentor Afghanistan's 340-person presidential security force.

In May, an examination of a terrorist suspect's computer by ATA-trained computer forensic specialists in Indonesia linked him to a 2005 Bali bombing, revealing other terror cells in Indonesia, and connecting the suspect to another suspected bomb maker.

An ATA-trained Colombian National Police unit successfully identified a Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) urban terrorist cell that was operating in the city of Cali and bombing various targets. An ATA-trained unit of the Justice Ministry conducted cell phone and system forensics and was able to identify the suspects.



WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

Diplomatic Security provides personnel who work within the U.S. Department of State and at U.S. embassies overseas with the knowledge, equipment, and hands-on training necessary to respond to a chemical, biological, or radiological attack with a minimal loss of life.

In 2008, DS delivered equipment and comprehensive weapons of mass destruction (WMD) training to more than 1,400 first responders at 120 U.S. embassies and consulates. In addition, DS distributed more than 30,000 escape masks to State Department employees worldwide and conducted more than 120 WMD training courses for personnel in the United States.

In the closing weeks of 2008, DS experts provided guidance to U.S. personnel at more than 70 U.S. diplomatic facilities abroad that had received envelopes bearing suspicious white powder. DS also worked closely with the posts and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to ensure the safe handling and analysis of the suspicious substance.

ARMORED VEHICLES

To enhance protection for personnel in such critical high-threat environments as Iraq and Afghanistan, DS continued to improve the design of its armored vehicle fleet.

Working closely with its vendor, DS completed development and delivery of its first armored wrecker to Baghdad, Iraq. This newly designed armored tow truck will permit DS personnel to travel to zones of conflict and safely recover damaged or disabled DS armored vehicles that would otherwise have to be destroyed, or that might be seized by hostile forces.

DS also continued its program to provide vehicles needed in the field to safely and securely transport U.S. personnel engaged in diplomacy abroad. In 2008, DS shipped a total of 666 fully armored vehicles to U.S. diplomatic missions abroad, including 437 to Iraq, 66 to Afghanistan, and 38 to Pakistan.





A DS trainer (right foreground) demonstrates the proper removal of personal protective equipment during a WMD first responder exercise at the International Law Enforcement Academy in San Salvador, El Salvador.

PROTECTING FACILITIES

To protect Department of State diplomatic missions abroad and facilities at home, DS deploys a multi-layered approach that ensures physical security, access control, and authentication and verification of employees and contractors through high-tech identity credentials.

One of Diplomatic Security's most significant physical security achievements in 2008 was completion of the technical security systems for the new U.S. Embassy in Beijing, China. The installation of technical security systems within the facility required over 40,000 man hours and included more than 27 miles of electronic cable.

DS kept the Department of State at the forefront of federal agencies in 2008 with its superior implementation of Homeland Security Presidential Directive-12, the 2004 directive requiring federal agencies to develop and deploy a Personal Identity Verification credential for their employees that is secure, reliable and interoperable among all federal agencies. By the end of 2008, DS had issued a total of 23,263 new identification credentials under Directive-12. The Department is one of the few federal agencies issuing cards that work with existing physical access control systems.

DS also played an important role in the commissioning of newly constructed or renovated U.S. embassies and consulates. Before such facilities may be opened for business, DS must conduct a security review, or accreditation inspection, of the finished projects. These comprehensive reviews evaluate all security aspects of the facilities, as well as the integration of building support systems that affect overall security. DS completed security inspections upon completion of major construction and renovation projects in Berlin, Beijing, Bern, Rome, Brazzaville, Port-au-Prince, Quito, and Ciudad Juarez.

As an added layer of security, DS launched a proactive initiative of post occupancy compliance reviews, in which the Bureau conducts a second security review at newly commissioned facilities six to nine months after they have been in operation. These secondary reviews focus on completion of security items noted during the initial accreditation inspection, as well as lessons learned on functionality and operability of the various security systems. In 2008, DS completed compliance reviews for the U.S. Embassy compounds in Panama City, Algiers, and Kathmandu.



Domestically, DS designed and oversaw the installation of intrusion detection systems, access control points, and closed circuit television systems at 14 U.S. passport agencies, including the relocated National Passport Center in New Hampshire. This time-critical security project to accommodate increased consular staff and operational needs was completed in October.

Similarly, DS designed and installed security countermeasures for the Department's passport production facility in Tucson, Arizona, which began printing and mailing out large quantities of passports in May. As the year came to a close, DS was developing and managing installation of security systems for the new passport adjudication center at the Tucson facility.

Throughout the year, DS provided full-time security coverage for 107 domestic Department of State facilities – including 22 Passport Offices – in 19 states and the District of Columbia, and provided security at seven large domestic construction locations.

DIPLOMATIC COURIER SERVICE

To convey and protect classified and sensitive U.S. materials in transit abroad, DS relies on more than 100 diplomatic couriers. Working out of the United States and seven overseas locations, the Diplomatic Courier Service provides both scheduled and special delivery of materials for the U.S. Department of State and other federal agencies working at U.S. diplomatic posts abroad.

Diplomatic couriers spent 81,133 hours delivering classified diplomatic pouch material by air, sea, and over land in 2008. They ensured the secure delivery of more than 55 million pounds of classified diplomatic pouch materials to U.S. embassies and consulates throughout the world, much of it palletized equipment for new embassy construction.

In fact, the Diplomatic Courier Service played a substantial role in ensuring completion and accreditation of several new U.S. embassy compound and renovation projects over the course of the year, including facilities in Quito, Bern, Berlin, Baghdad, Ciudad Juarez, Johannesburg, and Beijing. Several of these courier missions involved innovative methodologies to transport unusually large loads abroad in a very short time frame.

The Diplomatic Courier Service also collected more than \$20 million in reimbursements from non-State Department customers for ensuring the secure delivery of classified materials to other U.S. Government agencies at U.S. diplomatic posts throughout the world.

Through innovative planning, the Courier Service achieved significant cost savings in support of Embassy Baghdad. For example, Courier Service efforts on just two deliveries of sensitive materials to Baghdad generated a cost savings of \$1.18 million.

DS enhanced the security of diplomatic pouches and crates through the adoption of zip tie serialized seals. The new seals permit increased tracking capabilities as well as increased security resulting from serial numbers, and cannot be easily duplicated.





AWARD FOR HEROISM

Diplomatic couriers are prepared to address many complex obstacles that may arise during delivery of classified material overseas. Yet almost nothing can adequately prepare couriers for the magnitude of an air disaster involving themselves and their precious cargo.

On May 25, 2008, Diplomatic Courier Andrew Perez distinguished himself in the wake of a cargo aircraft crash in Brussels, Belgium. Mr. Perez quickly guided the aircrew to safety, while simultaneously notifying the Department of the incident. During the entire event, Mr. Perez ensured the security of sensitive diplomatic cargo destined for U.S. diplomatic missions in Bahrain and Iraq. For his valorous efforts, Mr. Perez was nominated for the U.S. Department of State's Award for Heroism.

COUNTERINTELLIGENCE

DS maintains a proactive program to train U.S. Government foreign affairs employees about threats to classified government information, systems, and facilities.

For all federal agencies supporting the 2008 Summer Olympics in China, DS developed and implemented an unprecedented online classified counterintelligence briefing. Because of its highly respected reputation within the intelligence community, DS was selected by the National Counterintelligence Executive to create this training program, which was completed by more than 300 personnel, including members of the presidential staff.

DS also developed an unclassified training compact disk designed to provide a counterintelligence perspective to the American business community and the U.S. Olympic team.

In addition to these programs, DS provided counterintelligence briefings for more than 20,000 U.S. Government employees, ranging from newly hired to senior officials and also members of Congress. These briefings are designed to detect, deter, and neutralize the efforts of foreign intelligence services targeting Department of State and foreign affairs community personnel, facilities, and missions worldwide.



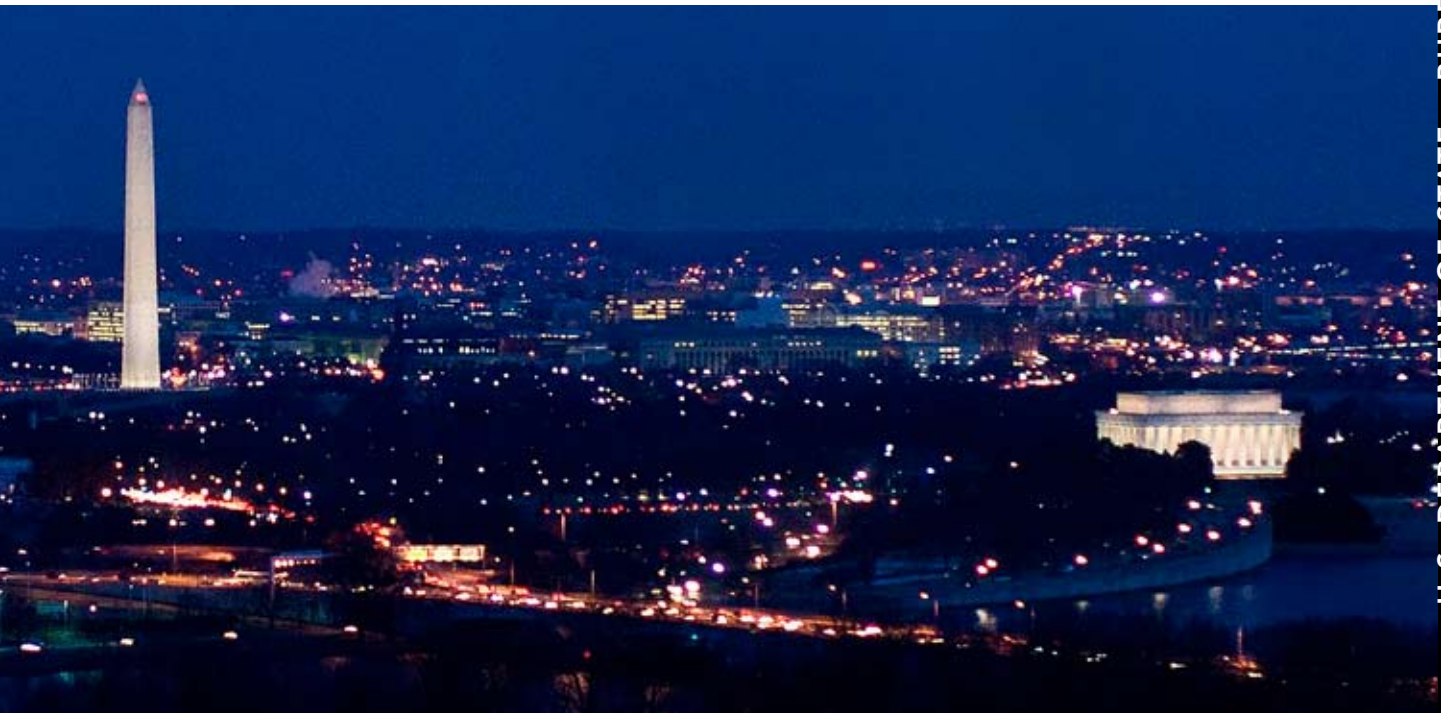
SECURITY THROUGH RECIPROACITY

In accordance with the Foreign Missions Act, the Office of Foreign Missions (OFM) contributes to the secure and efficient operation of U.S. posts abroad by ensuring that foreign missions and their members in the United States are extended certain services and benefits based on reciprocity, obligations under international law, domestic public safety concerns, and national security interests.

In carrying out this mandate, OFM administers a variety of activities on behalf of the foreign diplomatic community in the United States, such as issuance of diplomatic license plates, the regulation of property acquisition, travel services, and exemptions on various types of taxation.

As the lead office in the Department of State's Diplomatic Tax-Relief Initiative, OFM helped negotiate bilateral tax relief accords that will prevent the U.S. Government from being obligated to pay more than \$31 million in foreign taxes on the construction or renovation of U.S. diplomatic facilities abroad, including new facilities in Belgrade, Brussels, Bucharest, Djibouti, Dubai, Guayaquil, Kyiv, and Lusaka.

OFM also assisted foreign consulates throughout the United States in establishing relationships with local, county, and state Emergency Management Offices, and assisted in familiarizing those government offices with the responsibilities and needs of the foreign consular missions in the aftermath of a natural or man-made disaster. For example, in Miami OFM participated in a two-day crisis management exercise at the Miami International Airport coordinated by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. And in Texas, OFM conducted a joint hurricane preparedness seminar with the Houston Emergency Action Center for 90 foreign consulates located in that state.



A SECURE WORKFORCE

To ensure the integrity of its workforce, DS must conduct background investigations on new and current employees to determine their suitability to work with classified information in a government environment. In the past, these security clearance investigations often took months, delaying the filling of crucial jobs and leading many qualified job candidates to seek work elsewhere.

But in 2008, DS significantly reduced the average time needed to complete top secret security clearance investigations to just 64 days. Under the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act, all federal agencies that conduct security clearance investigations must complete these investigations within 60 days, no later than December 1, 2009. Thanks to its continued emphasis on reform, process efficiencies, and a comprehensive quality assurance program that increases employee accountability, DS accomplished this reduction in background investigation time despite an eight percent increase in case volume over a two-year period.

PROTECTING IT INFRASTRUCTURE

DS cyber security programs constitute the Department of State's frontline, operational cyber defense effort. To protect the Department's information systems, DS monitors and reports security incidents on those networks 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In the event of a cyber attack or breach, DS reports the incident to appropriate national-level government entities.

As part of its cyber security program, DS also conducts regular training of Department personnel and conducts regular vulnerability scans to detect security holes in the Department's Web sites, databases, and operating systems.

The sheer size of this effort is staggering. During 2008, DS experts worked around the clock evaluating 1.5 million intrusion events, 120 million firewall incidents, and more than 85 million content-filtering logs to identify potential cyber security events.

Throughout the year, DS also regularly performed scans on 107,000 devices and 450 configuration settings to ensure that the Department's IT systems and tools were in compliance with government security requirements and standards.



MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

A silent contributor to the success of DS, as with virtually any business or organization, is the administrative support element without which the hard-skills programs and mission could not be accomplished.

The men and women on the front lines of Diplomatic Security's work enjoy the support of the dedicated technical and administrative personnel in headquarters who complete the DS team. It is this teamwork that allows all components of DS to work together toward a common vision.

For example, the DS human resources team plays a key role in ensuring that DS identifies, tests, and hires the most qualified candidates for its very diverse workforce. In 2008, DS human resources personnel reviewed applications from more than 6,600 individuals who applied to become DS special agents. Because the DS special agent application is a highly selective process, only 223 of these candidates were hired. By year's end, DS also hired 13 security technical specialists, 10 security engineering officers, and eight diplomatic couriers.



INNOVATION, RESEARCH, AND DEVELOPMENT

DS deploys a wide array of cutting-edge security countermeasures to protect U.S. interests and is constantly developing new technologies to meet emerging threats. It continues to research, test, design, and implement new security technologies, including a new tracking device, a long-range counter-surveillance system, and an audio weapons identification system.

In response to recommendations issued in October 2007 by the Secretary of State's Panel on Personal Protective Services in Iraq, DS engineers and U.S. Navy Seabees outfitted 206 fully armored DS vehicles used in protective motorcades in Iraq with digital video recording systems that capture a 360-degree view of the vehicle's surroundings. DS engineers and the Seabees completed these installations by the end of 2008, 12 months ahead of schedule. These video recording units enhance DS' ability to monitor and analyze security situations.

Diplomatic Security also developed and deployed a sophisticated new high-security intrusion detection system that counters vulnerabilities in the legacy alarm system that soon will be out of production. Each of these new systems is built by a vetted domestic manufacturer with cleared production facilities; uses highly secure communications between each component in the system down to each individual sensor; and operates on DS-controlled microcomputer code rather than proprietary code held by a private corporation.

DS led a successful multi-agency effort that developed new technologies to prevent hostile foreign entities from collecting radio frequency signals through windows at U.S. Government facilities. These new technologies, which include blast resistance, already have achieved a cost savings of 43 percent over the previously installed countermeasures at eight Department facilities.

Working with the interagency Combating Terrorism Technology Support Office, DS designed, tested, and deployed an advanced mobile surveillance system at the annual United Nations General Assembly in New York City in September. This new system provided for the secure gathering of data from multiple inputs – including real-time video imagery, global positioning system tracking data, voice and e-mail communications – and the dissemination of that information to special agents in the field equipped with portable computing devices and cell phones.

IN MEMORIAM

Every day throughout the world, the courageous men and women of Diplomatic Security risk their lives to protect the people, facilities, and systems involved in the conduct of U.S. diplomacy. In the course of their work, these dedicated DS personnel may suffer injury, and some may lose their lives.

On June 19, DS suffered the loss of one of its private-sector security contractors providing protection to U.S. personnel in Iraq. This brave individual died tragically in a vehicular accident as he was returning to his base from a protective security mission.

We remember his sacrifice and dedication to keeping U.S. diplomats safe in dangerous environments, as we also remember with gratitude others who have made sacrifices during the course of efforts supportive of our missions worldwide.



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